

## LINOLEUM

### WHAT IS LINOLEUM?

Linoleum is made from a composite of naturally occurring raw materials including "green" linseed oil from flax, chalk, cork and other fillers which are rolled and baked in an oven producing a floorcovering with unique characteristics.

It becomes harder with age ("cures") and if properly installed and maintained, should last a lifetime.

If a cigarette is stubbed on lino, it will char the surface, leaving a residue that can be removed with a scouring pad – unlike vinyl which will simply melt and leave a permanent mark.

Linoleum has a hessian backing which can act like blotting paper, causing the adhesive to fail if the floor is not sealed around the edges. For this reason, overwetting when cleaning and its specification in bathrooms and other very wet areas is to be avoided unless it is welded, sealed and properly maintained.

The cleaning materials and maintenance of linoleum differs and should not be confused with those for vinyl.

### SEAM SEALING (OR WELDING)

For use in certain locations there is often a demand for a seam-free flooring to prevent contaminants penetrating a seam and possibly giving some adverse effect by accumulation.

In most circumstances this is not required when using sheet linoleum. When properly laid and seamed the slight expansion which occurs with linoleum after installation will give an impervious joint.

However sheet linoleum can be seam sealed if the demand arises, using either hot or cold systems.

### GENERAL

Linoleum is provided with a factory applied finish which will protect them during laying and for short periods afterwards. It is recommended that if other trades, such as joiners, electricians, plasterers, etc. are required to work after the flooring has been laid, it is protected by the use of grey felt paper, hardboard or other cheap covering.

To increase the service life and keep the appearance of a resilient flooring, it requires the

benefit of regular maintenance using recommended materials. These materials are compatible with the factory applied finish so no attempt should be made to remove it before starting the maintenance schedule.

### RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

Those recommended for use on Linoleum are tabulated in Table 1. They should be used strictly in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

### RECOMMENDED METHODS

Linoleum lends itself to regular maintenance by the use of machines for daily cleaning, polishing and the very occasional stripping off of old discoloured polish films.

Numerous types of machines are available for this purpose.

General advice on machines and accessories can be obtained from C3 Carpet Company Limited.

### INITIAL TREATMENT

1. Remove surplus adhesive from surface of newly laid flooring while it is still wet and allow 48 hours for the adhesive to harden.
2. Wash with a solution of one of the recommended neutral detergents in warm water. If using a machine for linoleum products it should be fitted with a medium grade nylon pad.
3. Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove all traces of detergent.
4. Dry before applying polish.
5. Polish - First Coat apply one coat of An Acrylic Emulsion or Metallised Emulsion Polish using an applicator or soft clean cloth.
6. Dry allowing 20-30 minutes under normal conditions.
7. Buff lightly with a fine grade nylon pad for linoleum.
8. Polish - Second Coat of the same polish applied as in 5 to give a protective film over the floor making it dirt repellent.
9. Dry allowing 20-30 minutes.
10. Buff if necessary should a buffable or semi-buffable polish have been used.

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### DAILY TREATMENT

1. **Sweep** using a mop sweeper. This will collect and hold surface dirt and debris.
2. **Buff** with a fine nylon pad or soft bristle brush, depending on product, to remove minor surface scratches, scuff marks, etc. and restore the gloss.
3. Alternative Methods of daily floorcare are:
  - a) Damp mop using a dilute (1:8) solution of the selected polish. This will remove spills and dirt and rejuvenate the existing polish film. When dry the film may be further buffed with a fine nylon pad or soft bristle brush to give a deeper gloss.
  - b) When a suitable machine is available two further methods may be practised. (i) Spray cleaning by lightly spraying a small area (2-3 sq. ft.) with dilute polish and whilst still wet buffing with a clean fine nylon pad. (ii) High speed burnishing using a fine mist of dilute detergent solution applied to the flooring.

### PERIODIC TREATMENT

1. Mop - damp mop to remove surface ingrained dirt as required. Use dilute detergent or diluted polish in conjunction with a fine nylon pad or soft bristle brush.
2. Strip - very occasionally remove old polish using a recommended stripper diluted as recommended.

Note that the one type of stripper will not necessarily remove both acrylic and metallised polishes.
3. Rinse - after stripping use multiple applications of clean water to remove all residual alkalinity. Incomplete rinsing can give subsequent problems with polish films.
4. Dry - allow to dry completely.
5. Polish - recommence polish application as directed in sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 of INITIAL TREATMENT.

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Spills - remove as soon as possible, mopping with clean, warm water. Prolonged contact may cause staining. Buff afterwards to restore shine.
2. Heel marks - black heel marks can be removed using a fine nylon pad moistened with the selected polish.

3. Anti-oxidant Discolouration - rubber products, particularly dark coloured ones contain chemicals which can permanently stain floorcoverings. Where the problem is likely to arise in car showrooms from tyres, hospitals from rubber castors on beds, etc. precautions should be taken.
4. General - keep all equipment clean; wash out pads, applicators and brushes after use.

The mop or applicator used for polish should be reserved for this purpose only.
5. Caution - Wet floors are normally more slippery so when cleaning proceed with caution.

The use of strong alkaline cleaners and abrasive powders will damage any flooring.  
The effect of strong alkaline cleaners is particularly marked with linoleum. Although products of this kind may be occasionally used, contact time must be minimal and the flooring surface must be washed with clean water to remove all traces of alkali.  
Suggestions that no rinsing is required must be ignored.

### RESISTANCE TO VARIOUS SUBSTANCES

It is not possible to detail the effect of all chemicals and domestically used products on Linoleum. This will be influenced by time of contact.

With linoleum products the smooth surface coupled with maintenance following the methods recommended will minimise the effect of any spillage.

Which ever product is used the golden rule is to mop up spillage as soon as possible so reducing the time for chemical and physical attack.

Guide lines on resistance are given in the following tables.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All linoleum is subject to the phenomenon of "stove yellowing". This means that when first exposed to light the surface of product may have to varying degrees a yellowish tinge. This disappears within days or weeks depending on the type and intensity of the sunlight or artificial light to which it is exposed and does not indicate shade variation or lack of colour fastness in the pigments used.

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## LINOLEUM - RESISTANCE TO VARIOUS SUBSTANCES

SUBSTANCE	VISUAL EFFECT			PHYSICAL EFFECT			OTHER COMMENTS
	None	Slight	Severe	None	Slight	Severe	
Water	★			★			Water spillage can cause slipperiness with certain kinds of polish.
Animal Fats ( Butter, Lard)	★			★			All will increase the slip risk
Vegetable Fats & Oils	★			★			
Mineral Oils	★			★			
Beverages	★			★			Cordials may cause staining to different degrees Tea, Coffee has no effect.
<i>Solvents:</i> Petrol		★			★		
Paraffin	★			★			
White Spirits (Turps Sub.)	★			★			
Chlorinated Dry Cleaning Fluid			★			★	Normally will evaporate before damage is severe.
Ketonic (Nail Vamish & remover etc)			★			★	
Paint strippers			★			★	Allow to evaporate mopping will increase damage.
<i>Domestic Cleaning Agents:</i> Detergents	★			★			Containing alkaline builders, can cause softening on prolonged contact.
Liquid Bleaches (Domestos)	★			★			Some colours may be lightened.
Solid Cleaners (Harpic)	★			★			Some colours may be lightened.
Washing Soda (dilute soln.)	★			★			
Washing Soda (strong soln.)		★	★		★	★	May produce pronounced softening and surface pitting.
Oven cleaners.		★	★		★	★	May produce pronounced softening and surface pitting.
<i>Miscellaneous Chemicals:</i> Dilute Mineral Acids		★			★		
Strong Mineral Acids			★			★	
Caustic Soda	★			★			
Caustic Soda (strong)			★			★	

### APPROVED MAINTENANCE MATERIALS FOR LINOLEUM

MANUFACTURER	Acrylic Emulsion	Metallised Emulsion	Cleaning Agent	Stripping Agent	Cleaner Polish
1. British Nova Works Ltd. 57-61 Lea Road Southall, Middlesex Tel: 081-574 6531	Supercote Novashield	Longlife	Nova 99 Nova One	Nova 743 Starbright	Lime-light
2. Jeyes Ltd. Thetford Norfolk Tel: 0494461234	Prism	Aquavision Vision Hilight Hibuff	Exotol Exotol GP	Cleaner 53 Histrip	CB 10 CB Gel
All products available from C3 Carpet Company Limited.					